

MONTANA UNTOLD

STORY LEADS

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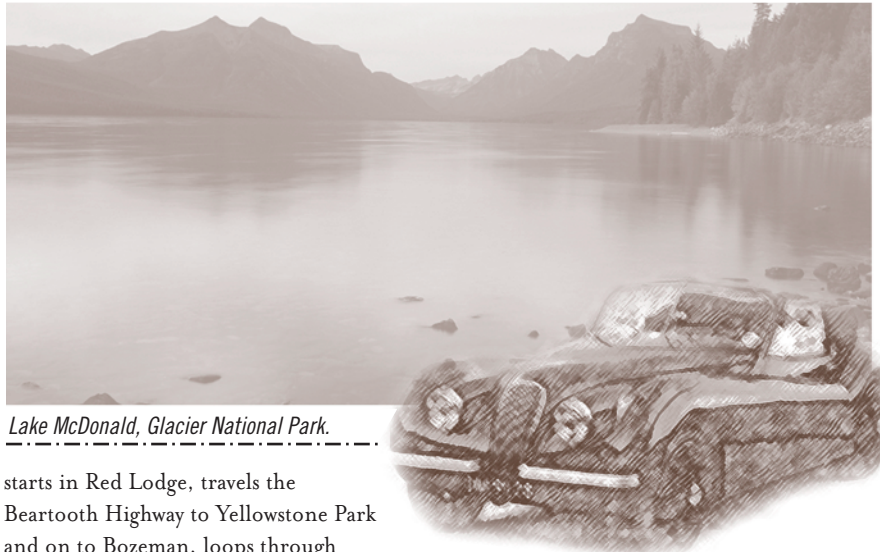
Classic Cars Ready to Drive to the Sun

This Fall, Montana's highway travelers may feel more like time travelers when they see classic Corvettes, Karman Ghias, Jaguars and other antique automobiles crossing the state.

From September 11-16, the first "Going to the Sun Rally" shifts into gear, a tour of vintage autos traveling across Montana highlighting the Beartooth Highway, Yellowstone National Park and Glacier National Park's Going to the Sun Road.

The event is the brainchild of long-time friends Jim Sitton and Kenny Williams. "For years, we wanted to do a Montana event involving classic cars," says Sitton. Still, while the initial spark was there, the two didn't have a clear idea of the event's format—until Sitton re-connected with Farnum Olston, a college classmate he hadn't seen in years. "I mentioned it to Farnum over lunch, and he suggested a road rally like the California M  le   or the Colorado Grand. I said Fall was the best time to do it, we shook hands, and we were on."

The event will feature up to 30 teams (consisting of a driver and co-driver) in cars built in 1969 or earlier. The \$2,500 entry fee for each team covers all accommodations, meals, entertainment, trip support and emergency services. The rally



Lake McDonald, Glacier National Park.

starts in Red Lodge, travels the Beartooth Highway to Yellowstone Park and on to Bozeman, loops through Virginia City, Bannack and Jackson on the way to Helena, heads north to Glacier and the Going to the Sun Road, then finishes in Missoula. Along the way, teams will travel more than 1,000 miles as they raise money for nonprofit groups.

"That was an important part of it from the beginning," says Sitton. "We wanted this to be a fundraiser for Montana charities." The trip will benefit the Montana Highway Patrol Fallen Officers Fund, and will provide an environmental grant, as well as scholarships for Vo-Tech and Native American high schools students.

According to Sitton, the response for the first rally has been phenomenal. "Word of mouth is really spreading, and we're getting a lot of interest from all over." So far, the

rally has participants from Montana, California, Arizona, and even England (Sir John White, a classic car enthusiast, plans to attend). Vehicles tentatively scheduled include a 1956 Jaguar XK1, a 1968 Karman Ghia, and a 1963 Corvette, among others. "These are cars you'd typically only see in private collections these days," comments Sitton.

But at the root of it all is the camaraderie and, above all, the Montana connection. "It's a rally and a fundraiser," explains Sitton. "But above all, it's a reflection of Montana: something you can be part of that will just put a smile on your face."

For more information, go to www.goingtothesunrally.com, or call toll-free: 888-458-5443. To find area information, go to www.glacier.visitmt.com.

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New Trail is for the Birds

Montana's northeastern "Hi Line" has long been a haven for migratory birds, raptors and waterfowl.

Now, thanks to the efforts of local groups, a unique Northeast Birding Trail is bringing flocks of visitors to see those flocks of birds.

This section of Montana is a birder's paradise. It features three National Wildlife Refuges, the gigantic Missouri River corridor, and a celebrated town park known for the highest influx of migrating warblers in the state at Westby's City Park. As locals noticed the growing interest in birdwatching and wildlife photography, the idea for the Birding Trail was born. Currently, the group is developing a guide map of 13 prime birding sites, with information supplied by birding experts and four natural resource agencies. For each of the 13 sites listed, the guide



Pelicans at Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge.

offers general information and directions, as well as information on specific species, best viewing times and contacts for more detailed information. The guide will be ready for distribution in June of 2005.

Stops along the Northeastern Birding Trail are: Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge, Camp Creek/Little Rocky Mountains, Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge, Bitter Creek Wildlife Viewing Area, Fort Peck Interpretive Center/Missouri River, Elk Island Wildlife Management Area,

Seven Sisters Wildlife Management Area, Fox Lake Wildlife Management Area, Fort Union/Fort Buford and the Missouri/Yellowstone confluence, Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Westby City Park, and Grasslands National Park in Saskatchewan, Canada.

The Northeast Montana Birding Trail is part of Montana's Missouri River Country. For more information, visit missouririver.visitmt.com.

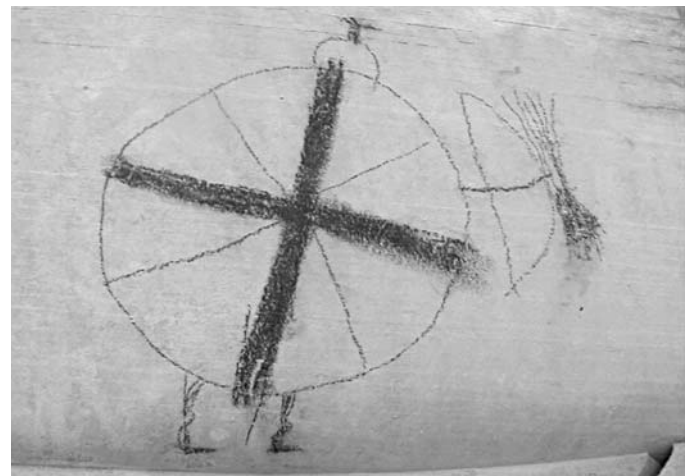
BearGulch Pictographs: Montana's Original Art Museum

Montana's rich artistic heritage stretches back hundreds of years—starting with fascinating pictographs created by Native Americans, Montana's original residents. At BearGulch Pictographs near Grass Range, numerous examples of these priceless artifacts are in the midst of a major preservation effort.

Current work on the pictographs began in earnest in 2004; volunteers are excavating artifacts; photographing, drawing, describing and mapping the pictographs and their locations; and improving the facilities. In 2005, BearGulch is upgrading existing tour trails, adding new trails, building viewing platforms and starting construction of a new visitor center. Campground facilities are scheduled to be completed by the summer of 2005.

Archeologists and paleontologists have volunteered their services to help prepare much of the area, and BearGulch offers a unique "working vacation" opportunity for people interested in documenting the pictographs.

Tours are available for \$10/person, or \$25 for a family, while group tours are also available by prior arrangement.



A pictograph at BearGulch.

BearGulch Pictographs are located 17 miles southwest of Grass Range in Montana's Russell Country. For more information, go to www.beargulch.net. To find lodging and other area information, go to www.russell.visitmt.com.

Pioneering a Scenic Route to Adventure

The Pioneer Scenic Byway, located in the heart of Montana's Gold West Country, is a multi-sport jewel.

Once travelers turn off Highway 43 at Wise River, the Pioneer Mountains begin to reveal themselves. Those with a keen eye are likely to see a "Whitman's Sampler" of wildlife, from elk and deer to bald eagles. Anglers will want to wet a line in the pursuit of local trout. Upstream, numerous campgrounds line the riverbanks, offering sites for both tent and RV campers.

Road and mountain bikers will fall in love with the riding available in this area. Most of the Scenic Byway's pavement is smooth and perfect for a casual or high-speed spin (a small section is a well-maintained gravel road). Minimal traffic and an ideal climbing grade make this a roadie's paradise. Off the roadway, bikers and hikers will find a network of trails crisscrossing the Pioneers.

For those looking to literally unearth a gem, there's Crystal Park, a non-commercial, roadside pullout and trail system developed specifically for crystal digs.



Wise River on the Pioneer Scenic Byway.

Elkhorn Hot Springs is just over the pass. Here visitors can clean up and soak their bones in the naturally warm waters that bubble out of the ground. Feeling the tired satisfaction that comes from active days spent in pure mountain air, adventure seekers will quickly see why some consider this 49-mile stretch of the Pioneer Mountain Scenic Byway, a true highway to heaven.

The Pioneer Scenic Byway winds its way across Montana's Gold West Country. For more information, visit www.goldwest.visitmt.com.

New Luxury Resort Gets "Paws Up" Ratings

Opening in June 2005, The Resort at Paws Up combines luxury with adventure on 37,000 acres of wilderness steeped in Lewis & Clark history. Situated along the Blackfoot River (made famous by the book and film *A River Runs Through It*), The Resort at Paws Up is Montana's first member of the "Small Luxury Hotels of the World."

Paws Up boasts more than 120 miles of designated hiking, mountain biking, horse and ATV trails. Outdoor adventures include fly fishing, tubing, kayaking, whitewater rafting, bird and wildlife watching, and sport clay shooting with national and world champion Andy Duffy. Winter activities include snowshoeing, cross country skiing, snowmobiling, sleigh rides and ice skating; ice fishing, dog sledding and downhill skiing are nearby.

Paws Up offers accommodations for 86 (that's 430 acres per guest), including spacious private luxury Big Timber Homes.

The Saddle Club at Paws Up boasts a 23,000 square foot riding arena, a 25-seat



A living room at The Resort at Paws Up.

VIP suite with a fully-stocked bar, a 52-stall barn, equestrian showers, an impressive tack room and acres of outdoor pasture. Paws Up actively breeds, raises, trains and sells quarter horses and paints. The Saddle Club offers private lessons, group rides, tours, horse care lessons and boarding of guests' horses.

The Resort at Paws Up is located in the Blackfoot Valley near Missoula in Montana's Glacier Country. For more information, visit www.PawsUp.com. To find other area information, go to www.glacier.visitmt.com.

Unique Nature Center Teaches: If You Care, Leave Them There

Bobcats make poor pets. So do deer, bears and other Montana wildlife. It's a message Ruth Brown, Director of the Beartooth Nature Center in Red Lodge, has delivered many times. Unfortunately, it's a message that needs constant repetition. "Human interference is the #1 reason why animals come to us," says Brown.

The Beartooth Nature Center, the only facility of its kind in the region, is home to animals that can't be returned to the wild. Some are injured, but the vast majority are casualties of careless, even thoughtless, human interaction. "You'd be surprised how often people try to take in wild animals as pets," says Brown. This is a bad idea in at least two ways, according to Brown. First, wild animals never make the transition to domesticated pets. "People pick them up as babies, but as the animals grow, they discover they can't handle them." Second, it's illegal, punishable by fines and imprisonment. "We work with Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, taking in confiscated animals," explains Brown.

One such example includes twin mountain lion cubs, brought in after their mother was shot. "The hunter made a mistake by shooting the mother. But he did the right thing by calling FWP," says Brown. One young coyote was found abandoned in a box; someone else left a baby fox in a dumpster after deciding they didn't want it as a pet. In all, some 70 animals are current residents, including eagles, hawks and other raptors, deer, bears, coyotes, mountain lions and bobcats.

The Center is open to visitors, and education is one of its primary goals. Brown is raising one young bobcat (currently about nine months old) as an "ambassador animal." She takes the bobcat with her on frequent visits to schools and groups, helping spread the word about the importance of letting wild animals stay just that: wild. "When I speak to school groups, I always say, 'If you care, leave them there,'" says Brown.

Beartooth Nature Center is located in Red Lodge, in Montana's Yellowstone Country. For more information, visit www.beartoothnaturecenter.org. Go to www.yellowstone.visitmt.com to find lodging and other area information.

Documentary Sees Through the Lens of Evelyn Cameron

Montana's scenic vistas have been captured by countless photographers over the years. But few photographers have left the kind of legacy Evelyn Cameron did.

In the late 1800s, she moved from England to the small town of Terry, Montana with her husband, bringing along a 5 x 7 Graflex camera; over the next several years, she documented a history of the Frontier West, capturing amazingly clear images of work, architecture, portraits and wildlife.

Still, Cameron's body of work might have been forgotten if not for the efforts of Time-Life Books editor Donna Lucey. In the late 1970s, Lucey discovered thousands of Cameron's negatives stored in a home basement; knowing she had found a rare treasure, Lucey introduced Cameron's work to the world with the publication of "Photographing Montana 1894-1928: The Life and Work of Evelyn Cameron."

Now, Cameron's enduring work is about to reach new audiences, thanks to a PBS



photos courtesy Montana Historical Society

documentary set to premiere in Terry (where else?) in August of 2005. Montana PBS began shooting the documentary in 2002, and the production crew has traveled to Texas, Washington and Virginia collecting interviews. They've also spent months in Helena at the Montana Historical Society searching through 2000 Cameron photographs, 35 years of diaries and a variety of family papers and books. Finally, the filmmakers spent countless hours in eastern Montana researching locations and collecting more artifacts related to the Cameron collection.

The result is a documentary that is part biography and part history. It features more

than 200 of Cameron's photographs—more than 100 of which were not published in Donna Lucey's book, and have rarely been seen by the public. Dramatic re-creations shot on location in eastern Montana help continue the pioneer story when no photographs were available.

Such careful attention to detail is only fitting, as "Lady" Evelyn Cameron was a detailed chronicler of the world around her.

The Evelyn Cameron Documentary, tentatively titled "Evelyn Cameron: Photographing Montana," premieres in Terry on August 19, 2005; the town of Terry is also planning a full slate of events and activities to coincide with the premiere.

For more information, go to www.evelyncameron.com or montanapbs.org/Montana/Pipeline/.

To find lodging and other area information, go to www.custer.visitmt.com.



Return with Clark on the Yellowstone

They came. They explored. They returned! Now you can return to the Big Sky Country to attend the second national Signature Event in Montana commemorating the National Lewis & Clark Bicentennial. Pompeys Pillar National Monument, originally named Pomp's Tower by William Clark or "as the place where the mountain lion lies" by Native Americans, hosts this event near Billings, Montana. On this sandstone rock, Clark inscribed his name and date, which is accompanied by a myriad of Native American figures

etched over the years. His signature is now the only remaining physical evidence of the Lewis & Clark Expedition appearing on the trail as it did 200 years ago. In 2006, retrace the journey by strolling through the "living history mall," float the famed Yellowstone River, participate in the talking tick ceremony and celebrate history. Plan on returning to Montana from July 22-25, 2006 for this event.

For more information, visit www.clarkontheyellowstone.org or www.lewisandclark200.org.

FROM MONTANA

The diversity of events, places and people in Montana is almost as wide as the state itself. We hope to give you a taste of that diversity with this quarterly newsletter. In addition, the following services are offered to editors, writers and producers:

Visual Materials

Color slides, digital images and stock video footage are available for editorial use.

Writer/Photographer Referrals

We can put you in contact with many of Montana's most talented and experienced freelance writers and photographers.

Editorial Copy/Calendar of Events

We can provide background information or editorial copy for many subjects. We also maintain a calendar of events for the entire state.

Individual Attention

If you need the latest vacation guide and road map of Montana, a liaison with other government agencies or detailed information to fit a specific story angle, we're here to assist you.

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